

### SKAGIT GEMS

Official Publication of the Skagit Rock and Gem Club Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961 February 2017 Volume 57, Issue 1



## Happy New Year



#### President's Message

Hello Rock Hounds,

I hope everyone is well in this New Year and ready to get out and do some rockhounding when the weather breaks. I would like to invite everyone to be involved in club activities this year and make a commitment to offer to help others to learn and have fun.

I will make this offer right now --- I am willing to conduct a class on metal working that is the basis of jewelry making. I can show you how to form steel, brass, copper, or aluminum into a yard wind item or other decorative / useful thing. Your suggestions are welcome. I know metal and you know what you like so together we should be able to find a project that will work for you. We all have skills that we can share with others.

In closing I will make this pledge;

I will do what I can to make this a good year to be in the club, but I need your help.

Thank you from your new president, Wes Frank

Next Meeting: February 4th

Gem of the month: Amethyst and other
February birthstones (see article on page 4)

#### **Program:**

Gemstones: their origins and what gives them their physical properties (color and hardness)



#### Meeting Minutes: Dec 3, 2017

- A brief meeting was held during the xmas party to elect a new club President. Out-going President, Eric, called the vote and with only one nominee, Wes Frank was voted as new President.
   Dave Britten will continue as Treasurer, Greg Hochmuht will continue as VP, and Susan May will return to her post as Secretary after a leave of absence last year.
- Dave presented the report from our Gem Show in November . Thank you to all who gave of their time to make it a success.
- The club received four applications for our scholarship. Noni and Joe, the Scholarship Committee, will go through them and put forth their first choice.
- Installation ceremony in January, no regular meeting. Next Meeting February 4th.



The club has a request from someone looking for used lapidary equipment. He is looking for a 6 in. saw and a lapidary machine for polishing cabochons. Please let Debbie know if you have anything and she will put you in touch with him.

#### **NFMS SHOW!**

Hosted by the Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society

First Interstate Center Ravalli Fairgrounds

Hamilton, Montana May 19-21, 2017

Show Times are Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-6 Sunday 10-4

Speakers at the Federation Show:
Dave Trexler, Paleontologist,
Two Medicine Center George Stanley Jr.,
Professor of Geosciences and the Director of the
Paleontology Center at U of M Ted Antonioli,
Consulting Geologist, Member of Montana Mining
Association Bruce Baty,
Talk on Glacial Lake Missoula Lee Filliman,
Fossils and Petrified Trees of Yellowstone



# Missoula Great Falls Hamilton Billings Rapid City Casper

#### A Walk Through Time --- FROM STARDUST TO US

The Walk Through Time unfolds on giant picture boards with a scientific understanding of the five-billion year evolution of life on Earth. The Walk progresses from the formation of the solar system to the present. The Walk offers a rich context for exploring fundamental issues regarding humanity and the future of all life on Earth and is a real life the physical Walk presented over the length of 1/2 mile. It will be displayed outside on the East lawn of the fairgrounds and is a wonderful way to learn about the geology of our planet with your children. This is a free event.

#### The Other February Birthstones

#### **Pearl**

Pearl was a traditional birthstone for February from as early as the  $15^{\rm th}$  century. This February

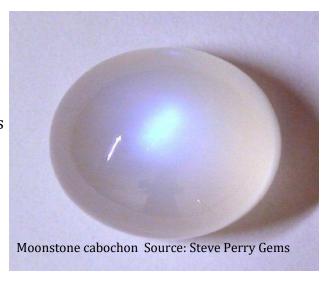
ary birthstone is among the few gemstones that are not produced by geological activity, but of biological processes. Pearl occurs when a mollusk coats a foreign irritant with mother-of-pearl, giving birth to the round February stone. Pearl is regarded as symbol of purity and genuine love; hence, this February gemstone is widely used as jewelry for engagement and weddings.



Akoya Pearls Source: Multicolour.com

#### Moonstone

Known as chandrakanta in India, moonstone is the birthstone for February in the Hindu calendar. This February birthstone is feldspar mineral consisting of alternate layers of orthoclase and albite, which lets the gemstone refract light within itself, giving the February gemstone the appearance of glowing from within. This birthstone of February is believed to stimulate clairvoyance, and relieve anxiety at the same time.



#### **Bloodstone**

Bloodstone is the birthstone for February in the old Tibetan calendar. This February birthstone is a green variety of opaque chalcedony speckled with red spots, which is usually red jasper. The February stone is believed to enhance courage, as well as increase physical strength, leading to this February gemstone

being worn by athletes and  $A_{po}$  warriors in antiquity. Sour

A polished piece of bloodstone or heliotrope Source: Ra'ike via Wikimedia Commons



#### Minerals on Planet Earth - Water

(Article Four of Series) by David Britten



Water? Where did the water come from? When did it come to earth? Certainly water couldn't have been present on our early molten orb – wouldn't it just boil away?

Water is composed of two of the most common elements: hydrogen and oxygen. When these two elements are in the same vicinity they react quite readily to form water. Water was present in great quantities in the "dust" cloud from which our sun and planets were formed. Water in its solid form (ice) was delivered directly to the earth from comets.

When these great ice chunks hit molten earth, they did not go up in a great cloud of steam as you might think. The comet penetrates deep into the magma where gravity again does its work. The great mass of molten rock kept steam from escaping, like the lid on a pressure cooker. Even the solid rock of earth contains small amounts of water. Deeper liquid magmas may contain as much as sixteen oceans of water. Earth's inner core is estimated to "harbor" eighty oceans of water!

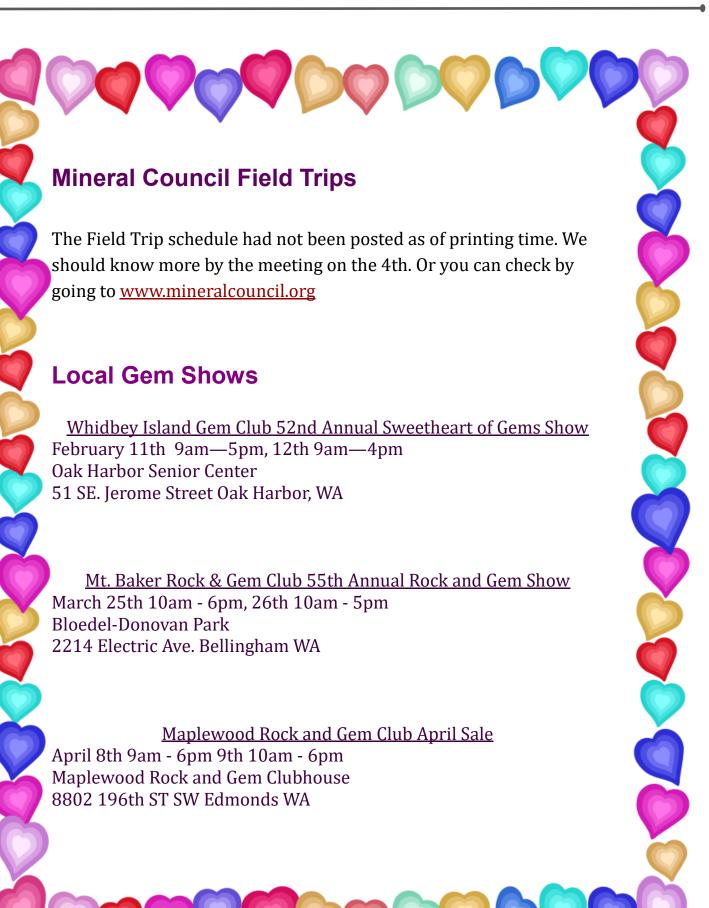
Magmas at the surface, of course, lose most of their water in the form of vapor. As more magmas pushed to the surface, water vapor began to concentrate in the atmosphere. As cooling continued, liquid water began to rain from the sky and "soon" water covered the planet. Basalts flowed from fissures beneath the water and waves lapped at volcanoes pushing above the surface.

The first rain drops fell through a hot house atmosphere of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide. These gases dissolved into the water making it very acidic. These acid rains began dissolving exposed basalts and the oceans quickly became highly concentrated with dissolved minerals.

Water is essential in the rock recycling process and the formation of new minerals. Of equal importance, however, is the role water plays in the evolution of life on our planet.

Next: Life Changes The Earth

Note: I was greatly aided in this quest to find the origins of the rocks and minerals of our planet by a book by Robert M. Hazen called The Story of Earth. - David Britten



#### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center

1401 Cleveland St. Mount Vernon WA 98273

- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
- Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com







#### Officers and Committees

President	Wes Frank
Vice President	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Susan May
Fed Director	Virgil Keltz
Bulletin Ed	Debbie Frank
Past President	Eric Self

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

**Banquet-** The Men

**Display Table-**Open

**Education Coordinator-Open** 

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

**Greeter-**Linda Keltz

**Library**-David Britten

Scholarship-Nona Avery, Joe Kantor

Mineral Council & PLAC-Open

NFMS Competition-Open

Nominating Committee-Executive Board

**Program-**Open

**Publicity-Frank Isca** 

Stamps-Virgil Keltz

**Sunshine-** Open

Swap-Vandenburgs

Ways & Means-Executive Board



**Every Committee that** says 'OPEN' is an opportunity to help!



